

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2737

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1656

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BG

SUBJECT: MUJIB'S HEALTH

1. WE DO NOT YET HAVE A RELIABLE BASIS ON WHICH TO JUDGE TRUE STATE OF MUJIB'S HEALTH NOW THAT HE HAS RETURNED FROM MOSCOW BUT WHEN I ASKED CHIEF OF PROTOCOL NAZRUL ISLAM SATURDAY HOW PRIME MINISTER WAS FEELING, HE SHOWED EVIDENT CONCERN IN HIS REPLY. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY IMPROVEMENT IN MUJIB'S APPEARANCE FROM WHAT IT HAD BEEN IN DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING HIS EMERGENCY DEPARTURE FOR TREATMENT IN MOSCOW AND NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN GASPING FOR BREATH MIDWAY IN HIS WALK-THROUGH T THE AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN. (DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN INVITED TO THESE AIRPORT CEREMONIES BUT INVITATION WAS CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE.) NAZRUL ISLAM SAID PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE TRYING TO REST AT LEAST SOME OF THE TIME DURING FIRST DAYS OF HIS RETURN.

2. THIS MAY SIMPLY MEAN THAT MUJIB HAS COME BACK SOONER THAN HE SHOULD HAVE FROM MEDICAL STANDPOINT BECAUSE OF PRESSING DOMESTIC SITUATION AND DESIRE TO BE IN DELHI FOR CONSLUSING OF TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, BUT IT PROBABLY INDICATES THAT HE WILL AT LEAST NOT BE ABLE TO DEVOTE HIS FULL ENERGIES TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A WHILE YET.

BOSTER

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